

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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SUBJ: SENATE DEBATES ON FOREIGN MINISTRY BUDGET

1. THE MAJOR TOPIC DURING SENATE DEBATE ON FOREIGN MINISTRY
BUDGET FEBRUARY 9 WAS THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND TURKEY. FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL, AS GOVERNMENT
SPOKESMAN, DISCUSSED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S.-TURKISH
RELATIONS. HE SAID, "THE EMBARGO
PROBLEM DOESN'T SIMPLY

AFFECT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. IN A MUCH
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BROADER SENSE, IT AFFECTS THE SOLIDARITY OF NATO AND THE IMAGE
OF AMERICA IN THE WORLD." HE SAID CONGRESS HAD ACTED WITH

GREAT IRRESPONSIBILITY TOWARD A FRIEND AND ALLY AND THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER THE PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO TO BE SUFFICIENT. HOWEVER, IT IS HOPEFUL THAT THE EMBARGO WILL BE LIFTED COMPLETELY. CAGLAYANGIL SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE PARTIAL LIFTING A SIGN THAT CONGRESS IS BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND ITS MISTAKE. HE STATED, "IT IS FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW THAT WE BEGAN OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. OUR PURPOSE IS TO PLACE OUR COOPERATION FOR JOINT DEFENSE ON CLEAR AND BALANCED PRINCIPLES. OUR COOPERATION WITH AMERICA MUST NOT BE AFFECTED BY EXTRANEous MATTERS. THESE ARE THE BASIC PROBLEMS BETWEEN US AND BY FINDING A GUARANTEE WE WILL RESOLVE THEM."

2. CAGLAYANGIL SAID THE RECENT ACTION OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE INDICATED THAT THERE WAS STILL A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING WITHIN CONGRESS. HOWEVER, THIS ACTION WAS MERELY A FIRST STEP AND HE IS HOPEFUL THAT COMMON SENSE WOULD PREVAIL.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) SPOKESMAN, CAGLAYANGIL SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT AGREED WITH THE RPP ON THE QUESTION OF "RENTAL" FOR THE BASES. HE SAID THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM "BECAUSE ACCORDING TO THE NEW AGREEMENT, THESE BASES WILL BE COMPLETELY UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION AND TECHNICAL DIRECTION OF TURKEY. ONLY FOREIGN TECHNICAL PERSONNEL WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE TECHNICAL WORKINGS OF THE BASES. SINCE THE COMPLETE ADMINISTRATION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THESE BASES WILL BE TURKISH, IT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION TO SPEAK OF RENT."

4. SPEAKING FOR THE PRESIDENTIALLY APPOINTED SENATORS, FORMER PRIMIN NIHAT ERIM SAID THAT TURKISH RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES HAD DETERIORATED BECAUSE OF THE AMERICAN EMBARGO. HE SAID IT IS NO LONGER CLEAR WHETHER AMERICA'S WORD CAN BE TRUSTED NOR IS IT CLEAR WITH WHOM TURKEY SHOULD DEAL -- THE CONGRESS OR THE ADMINISTRATION. ERIM CONCLUDED THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS BEHAVIOR BY THE UNITED STATES, NO ONE SHOULD BE SURPRISED IF TURKEY SHOULD CONSIDER ITSELF FREE TO ACT AS IT WISHED WITH RESPECT TO AMERICA OR EVEN NATO.

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5. SENATOR KAMRAN INAN, SPOKESMAN FOR THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP) JOINED IN THE CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID, "1975 HAS BEEN A YEAR OF CRISIS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. FIRST THE EMBARGO WAS IMPOSED, THEN IT WAS LIFTED. WHETHER IT WILL BE LIFTED ENTIRELY WILL BECOME CLEAR DURING DEBATES ON THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE BILL." INAN SAID THE INFLUENCE OF ETHNIC GROUPS ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IS VERY DANGEROUS. HE CLAIMED THESE PRESSURES HAD NOW ASSUMED THE CHARACTERISTIC OF INTERFERENCE RATHER THAN SIMPLY INFLUENCE.

"IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR MATTERS TO CONTINUE IN THIS MANNER,"
HE CONCLUDED.

6. RPP SPOKESMAN, SENATOR SALIH TANYERI, CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN REACTION TO THE EMBARGO. HE SAID, "THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT IF THE EMBARGO CONTINUED, THE BASES WOULD BE DISMANTLED, BUT HE DIDN'T SET A DATE. LATER THE BILATERAL TALKS BEGAN. HOWEVER, WITH THE IMPOSITION OF THE EMBARGO, AMERICA HAD INVALIDATED THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT. FOR THIS REASON, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE TAKEN OVER THE BASES IMMEDIATELY." TANYERI ALSO SAID THAT THE RECENTLY REPORTED ACTION OF THE CONGRESS IN POSTPONING CONSIDERATION OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE BILL UNTIL AFTER CAGLAYANGIL'S SCHEDULED VISIT WAS A FURTHER EXAMPLE OF AN ATTEMPT TO PUT PRESSURE ON TURKEY.

7. COMMENT: THE SENATE DEBATE DID NOT BREAK ANY NEW GROUND. THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPLANATION OF ITS ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. WAS SUFFICIENTLY QUALIFIED BY CRITICISM OF THE CONGRESS AND THE EMBARGO SO THAT ANY OPPOSITION ATTACK ON THE GOVERNMENT WAS BLUNTED. THE ASSEMBLY DEBATE LATER THIS MONTH MAY PRODUCE MORE FIREWORKS, BUT SINCE ACTION ON THE TOTAL BUDGET MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO MARCH 1, WE DON'T ANTICIPATE PROLONGED OR PARTICULARLY SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE AT THAT TIME EITHER.

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